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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1912.

WHAT A STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAN DO.

The science of State government has been explored and developed in Wisconsin to a far greater degree than in any other of the sisterhood of States. There are lessons that the older States can learn of the advanced Badger State, lessons that embody practical working principles that could be adopted profitably by States which have not progressed so far.

The State Board of Public Affairs of Wisconsin is an agency of State government after which other States should model similar boards. It is headed by the Governor, and includes strong and informed members of the State Senate and House of Representatives. The finances of the Commonwealth are kept under close surveillance by it, and, as a vital departure, progressive, economic and social reforms are investigated by it and here and there put into practice. The body has wide powers in various fields. It has seven members, and is, therefore, not one of those perfunctory boards whose membership is so large that too great a division of responsibility is caused.

The board combines executive and legislative functions. Legislatively, it investigates the financial needs of the State departments before the Legislature convenes; the board frames a budget of departmental expenses and submits this to the General Assembly. The budget is based on actual needs. Its slogan is economy. In this activity the board supplants half a dozen committees of the Legislature, not only in reference to finances, but in the field of new legislation, reforms and progressive laws that will improve the estate of the people.

This novel governmental force was created by the Legislature in 1911. Instead of providing for a number of separate committees to investigate and report upon a variety of important issues and matters, the Legislature listed pending problems in a single bill and appointed a single committee to consider and report upon all of them. The seven members of the board are of recognized fitness for investigation. They serve without extra pay, and are aided by a staff of economists, educators, accountants and students. The duties of the board have thus been summarized by its secretary:

It is a Governor's council, with the Governor as chairman. It advises him on State affairs and discusses with him all changes in State administrative matters.

It is a hold-over legislative committee, that studies all the great problems affecting the people's welfare, social and economic, and reports something concrete on them to the Legislature.

It is a bureau of economy and efficiency in State administration, making up the budget and cutting down expenses wherever possible.

As an auditing and financial body, the board is empowered to send accountants into any State department or office at any time, take away the books, audit them, and make a report. Enabled to secure from department heads recommendations as to needed appropriations for the next fiscal year, the board may investigate any or all items and cut or add to them. With such a supervisory body over them, Wisconsin's State departments must be and are conducted wisely and economically.

As a department of special investigation and reform, along all lines, the board inquires into the large problems which the Legislature has taken up or is about to take up. After looking into and carefully studying an industrial or an economic question the board publishes a comprehensive report and makes definite recommendations to the Legislature. It is required by law to investigate the materials and resources of the State and promote them, "especially through home and farm ownership, co-operation, publicity, immigration and settlement". It must inquire into the costs and standards of living within the State, the difference between the amounts which producers and dealers receive and consumers pay, and the measures that should be adopted to reduce that difference and provide for more economic distribution. It must co-operate with agencies of the Federal and State governments and with voluntary associations in the development of the resources, markets, industries and opportunities of the State and communities therein.

Virtually unlimited authority is thus conferred on the board to go about any business earnestly, fervently and interestedly. The people feel that what it is doing will mean something. The board and the Legislature co-operate because legislation and reform have been brought down to a good system of business organization. In its work in the year since its creation, it has inquired into the rural schools of the State during a period of six months, and signal changes in the curriculum, administration and scope of the country school are to result; an inquiry is now being made into the high and normal schools, and a report will be issued in the spring. Inquiry has been made into productive and distributive co-operation of farmers, on the one hand, with the establishment of public markets in the city, on the other. Co-operative credit, government aid to farmers who buy land for cultivation, farmers' loan associations for lending money to needy farmers at good terms over a long period, State aid in securing settlers and land for their use, the attraction of business settlers through publicity as to the business possibilities of the various towns and cities, and prison labor—these are some of the problems that the board is carefully considering so that practical, concrete recommendations can be made later to the legislators who have neither the time nor the training essential to an intelligent and broad survey to be used as the framework for constructive legislation.

Is there any reason to prevent the State of Virginia from availing itself of the service of such a commission composed of efficient men? Would not its creation here work great economy by lifting the burden of countless investigations of problems from the shoulders of busy legislators and placing it upon five responsible men? Would not such a plan of framing a State budget, with the Governor backing it up and the people commending it, be a hundred times better for the State than the present haphazard and malformed legislative method? The cost of such a board would be little; its saving to the State and its service to its progress might be measureless.

CIVIL SERVICE IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

The commendable purpose of the ordinance offered last night at the meeting of the City Council by Councilman Vonderlehr is to require the establishment of rules and regulations concerning the admission of persons into the service of the city and the fitness of such persons in respect to age, health, character, knowledge and ability for the branch of the service which they seek to enter. To effect this end, the proposed law would create a board of examiners. The aim, of course, is to establish civil service regulations concerning the qualifications of persons who would enter the city's employ.

The superiority of such a system, rightly safeguarded, cannot be questioned. Wherever municipal civil service regulations have been employed and enforced, municipalities have vastly improved the quality of the service rendered them by their employes and officials. The standard of civil service is demonstrable merit. The test it establishes is fitness for the position sought, and not political pull or the promise of future political hustling. Civil service is a supreme protection to the people's welfare when it is used in the selection of applicants to fill positions requiring more than an ordinary degree of skill, experience, technical or expert knowledge. Under its workings, the expert can be secured with certainty, while the inexpert are automatically eliminated upon their own showing.

The greatest benefit that such a system confers upon a city is that it prevents the political manipulation of municipal positions. It cuts the hands of well oiled city political machinery, because the politicians cannot control the appointments. The appointee is under no obligation to the politicians. He has no debts to pay, either in dereliction of his duty or in endeavors to elect or re-elect politicians to office. The result is that public servants chosen because of their merit render efficient service to the city.

Civil service is the most democratic method of securing municipal employes and officials, because it opens opportunity to all. It discriminates only between fitness and unfitness. It selects the best man without regard to his value as a political worker. It requires merit, but not facility for rounding up the boys or handing out candidates' cards. If Richmond were to adopt the system, it would be doing only what advanced cities have already done. If Richmond possessed such a method of choosing her experts, it might have been a salutary preventive of such a result that that wrought by Messrs. Hirschberg, Folkes and Whittet in their appointment of John E. Butler to the office of Building Inspector. Let us profit by that experience.

WASHINGTON FOR THE ABBEY.

A monument to George Washington in Westminster Abbey has been suggested and discussed at various times in the past, but the idea has never had such cordial reception as now, when tentative plans for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent are being formulated. That treaty marked the close of the War of 1812, the document having been signed December 24, 1814. From that day to this, peace between the United States and Great Britain has remained unbroken.

In no better form could the good will of the English people be evidenced than by the admission of George Washington's statue to Westminster Abbey. The honor would be a graceful signification that the event of the American Revolution is accepted without rancor by the people of the mother country, and that time has remolded the two great nations into a tie of indissoluble brotherhood. Yet, if some of the Englishmen were to follow the precedent set by certain narrow and prejudiced persons in the United States, they would strenuously object to placing the marble presentment of the greatest of American rebels in the national memorial hall of the people against whom he successfully led his armies.

The protests over Virginia's placing of the Lee statue in Statuary Hall in the national Capitol cannot have passed unnoticed by our brethren across the sea.

The plans of the British committee in charge of the treaty celebration include not only the putting of Washington's monument in Westminster Abbey, but the purchase of Sulgrave Manor, in Northamptonshire, the ancestral home of the Washington family. The enterprise is naturally wholly English, and it may never result successfully, but there is no doubt that the people of this country would rejoice that a memorial to the Father of His Country should find position in the Abbey. Longfellow is now the only American so honored.

PEACE PROMISE.

The official announcement that the peace ambassadors of the great powers have agreed upon Albanian autonomy and the concession of a commercial port on the Adriatic to Servia clears the European international atmosphere momentously.

It is a distinct advance towards, if not, in truth, a positive assurance against a general conflict, whether hostilities between Turkey and the Balkan allies are resumed or not. It affords both Austria-Hungary and Servia a way out that neither can afford not to tread.

The latter had declared her willingness to leave the questions at issue to adjustment by the great powers, and from that declaration she cannot recede. The issues were entirely her own affair, and the other parties to the Balkan concert are eliminated from right to interfere or to protest. Even were they disposed so to do, obviously the policy would be suicidal, as bearing upon securing the indorsement of the powers in the matter of the final division of the rest of the territorial spoils among themselves.

Austria-Hungary gains what at the last has been behind her attitude towards Servia throughout; that is, nonobstruction of her march, in the future, to the Aegean and the Adriatic, and a barrier to more dangerous juxtaposition of Servia and the discontented Serbs in Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia and her other Slav provinces.

Whether or not, as suggested, it is purposed to recognize quasi-Turkish sovereignty over Albanian autonomy, and that is not likely, some sort of suzerainty, it goes without the saying, will be established. That will be essential for the internal peace of the new state and peace between it and its neighbors.

It will be necessary to "guide" and "tutor" the Albanians, and by reason of geographical propinquity, if for no other, on Austria-Hungary will be imposed the responsibility. As was the case with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the dual monarchy will be the ultimate suzerain.

The official announcement in question is a promising, a seasonable and a most welcome message to Christianity, humanity and civilization the world over.

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION.

The results accomplished by governmental commissions are usually unsatisfactory. Frequently commissions are established as a pretext for delaying legislation, and often their work is demoralized and rendered of no value through the selection of their clerical and investigating forces by political methods. Even in cases where an earnest effort is made, much time is lost and a large amount of money is wasted because of inherent lack of centralization in the direction and supervision of their work.

The Commission on Industrial Relations, which has just been appointed by President Taft, if it is to be successful, must overcome two exceedingly strong obstacles. One of these is the strong tendency towards decentralization which will inevitably arise from the composition of the commission itself, its members being representative in equal numbers of labor, capital and the general public. The second difficulty is to be found in the wide range of authority conferred upon the commission. There is danger of too little concentration, and by attempting too much to accomplish nothing. This tendency may be obviated by making preliminary surveys and by outlining its plans carefully before any detailed work is undertaken. During recent years a vast quantity of original information has been collected by the former Immigration Commission and Tariff Board, the Federal Bureau of Labor and Corporations, and by other governmental agencies, and these data have been only partially digested and published. As a preliminary to its own work, the new commission should carefully analyze this mass of information, in order that its investigations may be a supplement to, and not a wasteful duplication of, what has already been done.

Why is it that the colored folks in prohibition States have never quit asking for a little money to buy a "Chrismus dram wif"?

Life in some places in Virginia right now is just one eggnog after another.

The Old Man's bank account now looks as if it had stood at Armageddon.

"Has no poet arisen to hymn the praise of the sweet potato?" asks the Springfield Republican. If not, then Taliaferro P. Littleberry, of Powhatan, will.

This time next year a White House bally from Old Virginia will be cooking a Chesterfield County turkey for an Augusta County President of the United States.

On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

Nothing Comin' Down.

Ah don't know what's de matter of de eatin's nowadays.
De butchers in this town they seem to have an awful craze
Of chawgin, moh for poke chops than they evah did befoah.
Et makes a feller figger as the winter breezes blow.
An' the coalman am a hoistin' up his prices so blame high
That a peck of anthractite am all a common cuss kin buy.
And the taters and the flour am suahly both a-risin', too,
And to git a little hoecake am about all Ah kin do.

Almost every sort of needin's that a feller's got to git,
Am bein' shoved up higher, then a little higher yit.
There's surely something the matter in dis town,
For it's all a-goin' up and nothin' comin' down,
Excep' de snow.
Ah ha'adly know
Why it is so.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

There are a lot of expert hammer throwers among the dames of the smart set in this man's town. Our polite society lives on gossip. It is getting so the editor of this paper can't come out of a Sunday with a new pair of pants unless every widow in the town, grass, sod and clover, as well as all the old maids, society buds, belles and scions whisper among themselves and wonder how he got 'em. For their benefit we would say there are a few people in this town, although they may not be hightoned or belong on the most exclusive circles, who pay for their paper, and there are merchants who advertise and let us trade it out, so there is no mystery about the pants. None whatever.

And now let us hope we can go to church in peace next Sunday and act as near like a Christian as a man may and run a weekly paper in his burg.

If Hank Tumms had taken the Clarion the past nine years and not confined his reading to Hostetter's almanac he would have known better than to have been taken in as he was the other day over at West Hickeyville, where he went to sell a load of wood for a music stool, and now he is the maddest man in the county. He brought the stool home, and says he turned it every which way most all of one afternoon and never a sound of music came from it. Hank always was fond of music, too. Moral: Subscribe for the Clarion and keep posted.

Elder Haskins came in on Thursday and paid his subscription. Good boy Elder. The Elder is one of nature's noblemen and never lets it get more than six years behind, which is quite unusual in these parts. The elder has recently purchased a new automatic barb wire stretcher and, in addition to putting up fences, is now ready to tune pianos at a moment's notice. Give him a call. He has a good ear for music, having played B flat cornet in the Hoppertown Silvon Cornet Band in 1874. The elder also played the melodeon, and is some pumpkins on the triangle.

Ansel Peabody Sundays in West Hickeyville quite frequently lately. What's the lady's name, Anse?

J—— B—— and Miss E—— O—— were seen driving down the west road last Sunday evening behind a hand some pair. Wedding bells are heard in the distance.

Making a Bad Beginning.

Richmond's Administrative Board has made a bad beginning, it seems, in selecting a Building Inspector for that city to succeed Henry P. Beck, who is a member of the board. The board has selected a man who was dismissed some time ago by Mr. Beck when he was the inspector, and the selection naturally is not very heartily approved of in Richmond.

Before she is through with this double-barreled system of government by Administrative Board and City Council, Richmond will find that many things are done under such a system that the people do not approve of, though the election of the inspector has little to do with the system, except that it shows that politics still rules.—Newport News Press.

Voice of the People

Where Is the Money?

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—More than one-third of the actual cash in the banks of the country is held by New York banks. More than one-half of the banks' funds is in the vaults of banks located in the cities of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco.

This information is revealed by government reports on banking prepared from statements submitted by the banks in June last. The money in banks of the financial centres named is over one-fourth of the total stock in circulation.

The amount of money in circulation in the United States at the end of the last fiscal year was estimated by the Treasury Department at $3,284,500,000. This is the aggregate of all money in bank vaults, cash drawers of business concerns and in the pockets or hoarding places of the general public, and does not include about $364,000,000 held in the Treasury as assets of the government.

An equal distribution of this monetary stock among the people would give to every man, woman and child in this country $34.34. A geographical distribution upon this basis would give the Southern States the largest share, or about $916,000,000; next in order the Middle Western States would receive $908,000,000; the Eastern States $758,000,000; the Western States would receive $272,000,000; the New England States $231,000,000, and the Pacific States $199,000,000.

How this vast sum of money is actually distributed throughout the different sections of the country is a question for some future director of the census to answer; but it is an easy matter to determine, at least for certain dates, what amount of the bankable funds is held in banks of the various States and some of the principal cities.

About one-half of the big sum representing our circulation medium can now be located once a year; as, for instance, that portion found in the banks on the day every one of these institutions are called upon to make a report to the Comptroller of the Currency for statistical purposes, which this year happened on the 14th of June.

While the location of money in banks can be determined with more or less accuracy, and the amount of bank funds for each State and financial centre may be closely approximated, the amount of cash in the people's pocketbooks constantly passing from hand to hand in daily business transactions cannot by any present means be determined for any given locality.

The latest information as to how much of our circulating medium finds its way to the banks may be interesting.

We know that on a certain date, as indicated by a summary of bank statements, so much of the money outside of the United States Treasury Department was in bank vaults and tills, and that the balance was in actual circulation, that is, not in the Treasury or in banks.

The amount of money in the banks on June 14 last was $1,572,000,000, and this sum was distributed geographically in the following proportions: About 48 1-2 per cent was in banks of the Eastern States; nearly 27 per cent in those in the Middle West; 7 per cent in the Southern States; a little over 6 1-2 in the Pacific States; not quite 6 per cent in the New England States; slightly over 4 1-2 in the Western States, about one-half of 1 per cent being in the island possessions. In other words, nearly one-half of the cash in all banks of the country, or $761,800,000, is in the banks of the Eastern States, viz., New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The cash in banks of New York State on the date mentioned was about $596,500,000, of which sum over $523,400,000 was held by 168 banks in the city of New York. Thus, it is shown that over 33 1-3 per cent of the total money in bank vaults in June last was held in New York City. On the same day the banks in Chicago held approximately $148,000,000; those in St. Louis $41,000,000; in Boston, $50,000,000; Philadelphia, $51,000,000, and San Francisco nearly $23,000,000.

These statistics are compiled from reports made by 494 banks in operation in the cities named. So it appears that less than 500 banks located in six of our large cities, with an aggregate population of 10,000,000, hold 33 per cent of the cash in all banks of the country, or a sum amounting to $842,000,000, while 24,700 other banks, scattered throughout the country, hold the balance, about $720,000,000, or only 47 per cent of the total cash holdings.

The per capita of money in circulation, as before stated, is $34.34. Let us see what is the per capita holdings of that part of the money in circulation found in the banks of our great financial centres. New York, with a population of 4,766,000, has $110 cash in bank to each inhabitant; Boston has $74; Chicago, $67; St. Louis, $60; San Francisco $55, and Philadelphia, $33.

If we apply the same test for the sections we shall find the per capita of money in banks highest for the Eastern States—$34—followed in order by the Pacific States, with $17; the Middle Western States, $15; the New England States, $13; the Western States, $9, and the Southern States lowest, with $4.

CHARLES A. STEWART.
East Falls Church.

A Tribute to Grady.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Yesterday marked the anniversary of the passing from the activities of life just thirty-three years ago of Henry Woodfin Grady, Editor, orator, peacemaker, great in all, the South and the nation lost when he died a great benefactor. His demise was the result of a severe cold contracted in Boston, where he had been invited to deliver an address to the Boston Merchants' Association. President Cleveland and he being the principal speakers. Hurriedly returning to his home in Atlanta, he never rallied from a severe cold contracted at that time. The press of the whole country was filled with praise of the young Southern orator, only to lament with equal fervor a few days later his sudden death. The news of the sad event was received in Richmond with profound sorrow. The Dispatch said: "Henry Grady was a progressive, aggressive, self-optimistic character, who, when he once put his hand to the plow, never looked back." President Cleveland sent the following telegram of condolence to the widow: "New York, December 23.—Mrs. Henry Grady: Accept the heartfelt sympathy of one who loved your husband for what he was and for all that he has done for his people and his country. Be assured that everywhere throughout the land warm hearts mourn with you in your deep affliction, and deplore the loss the nation has sustained.—Grover Cleveland."

Mr. Grady's career as a newspaper man began in Rome, Ga., where he was the editor of a small daily for a brief while, subsequently removing to Atlanta, where he, in connection with Colonel Bob Allston and Henry St. Clair Abrams, soon after established The Herald to compete with The Constitution. One of the wild flights of fancy of The Herald was that of paying a railroad $150 a day for an engine to carry the paper to Macon, where the people were as keen for it as the Atlantans. The Constitution immediately followed suit. Both papers were on the verge of bankruptcy at that time, and it required some great work to get the money to pay the bills. Soon after this the publishers of The Herald announced their inability to borrow any more money, and the blazing meteor fell from the journalistic sky, deeply lamented by the whole State.

Mr. Grady then shook the dust of Atlanta from his feet and went to New York, where he became an editorial writer on the Herald. His heart was still in Dixie, however, and later he returned to Atlanta and bought some stock in The Constitution, which brought him good returns, in addition to his salary as one of the editors. When a prohibition fight came on in 1886, Mr. Grady took that side, and his partner, Colonel Evan Howell, the opposing. Their editorials appeared each day, side by side, signed by the respective writers. Prohibition prevailed, and it was conceded by all that Mr. Grady's pen and voice were the most potent factors in the great struggle between the pros and antis.

The writer of this article was a reporter on The Herald, and so he speaks by the card. He could not close without saying that the brilliant and lovable "Bob" Allston was the only one of the firm who could go out every day and get the money with which to finance the paper—his partners were not so gifted in that line.

LOUIS L. PARHAM.
Richmond.

Matrimony and Racial Supremacy.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Matrimony among poor and indolent people, often degraded, is the greatest obstacle for civilized society. Among this class not only is lacing in very early life verified, but as soon as it comes to this condition it gives to the world the greatest number of feeble progeny, with a very poor spirit to fight for life; and it is true that degeneration is a fact.

From what we have said we have the following result: The vicious, the lazy and the degraded grow rapidly, while those who are prudent, foresighted and reasonable grow slowly. This is the reason why we find in our days many towns that used to be great now are in the most complete ruin.

If for one minute we put our attention on the American nation we shall find the truth of this. In this country it is rarely that we see homes having many children. And it is unquestionable that this nation "grows" greater every day.

Mr. Greg said: "The Irishman, unclean, inept, without ambition, multiplies himself as a rabbit; the Scotchman, frugal, foresighted, respectful to himself and nobly ambitious, with a rigid morality, adherent to his faith, sagacious and intelligent, passes the best of his years fighting against celibacy; he marries late and leaves in the world a small number of descendants."

I am very sure that if three-fourths of the population of a town are Irishmen and the rest are Scotchmen, in the eighth or ninth generation the Irishmen will be the servants of the Scotchmen; because while the former grow in number the others, the latter, grow in intelligence and power.

This is the trouble with some islands of the West Indies club and some republics of Central and South America. In these the natives consecrate themselves to a rough work, provoked by their own degeneration, while the foreigners grow in power and secure to themselves everything. What is the reason? The only reason that I can see is degeneration, because it makes the inhabitants of a country lose their rights.

Therefore, matrimony among poor and indolent people, often degraded by vicious habits; is the cause of the degeneration; and the degeneration is the way in which countries go into slavery and eternal forgetfulness.

ROGELIO F. de CASTRO.
Richmond.

Abe Martin

Pinky Kerr, who has been loafin' for several months, complains that times are gittin' better. A fraud can't help dressin' like it.

THE EVOLUTION OF SANTA CLAUS.

By John T. McCutcheon.